

### **Amendments to the Claims**

1 Claim 1 (original): A method of tracking animal transfers with animal passports, the method  
2 comprising steps of:

3 creating an animal passport to represent a transfer of animals from a transferor to a  
4 transferee;

5 assigning a unique passport identifier to each created animal passport, thereby providing a  
6 unique identification of the underlying transfer; and

7 repeating the creating and assigning steps for each subsequent transfer of one or more of  
8 the animals, wherein the animal passport created for each subsequent transfer also records the  
9 unique passport identifier assigned to each most-recent transfer of those animals.

1 Claim 2 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein each of the animal passports is  
2 signed by a transferor and transferee who are parties to each transfer, thereby certifying the  
3 transfer represented by the signed animal passport.

1 Claim 3 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of recording  
2 the animal passports in a repository.

1 Claim 4 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of using the  
2 animal passport identifiers to track locations of the animals.

1 Claim 5 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the animal passports reflect a

2 complete lifetime of the animals and are therefore usable to track transfers of the animals  
3 throughout their lifetime.

1 Claim 6 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the animal passports reflect a  
2 complete lifetime of the animals and are therefore usable to track locations of the animals  
3 throughout their lifetime.

1 Claim 7 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the transfers are transfers of  
2 ownership.

1 Claim 8 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the transfers are transfers of  
2 possession.

1 Claim 9 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the transfers is a  
2 transfer of ownership and at least one of the transfers is a transfer of possession.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~repeating~~ creating  
2 and assigning steps are also repeated for subsequent transfers of animal products derived from the  
3 animals.

1 Claim 11 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the animal passports further  
2 specify individual animal identifications of the transferred animals.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein additional animals are  
2 ~~may be~~ included in one or more of the subsequent transfers, and wherein the animal passport  
3 created for such subsequent transfers also ~~record~~ records the unique passport identifier assigned  
4 to each most-recent transfer of those additional animals.

1 Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein animal passports are  
2 created for each transfer during a lifetime of the animals and further comprising the steps of:

3 recording each of the animal passports in a repository, along with a specification of how  
4 many animals are represented by each transfer, a location of the animals during a timeframe  
5 covered by the animal passport, and an identification of one or more transferors and one or more  
6 transferees who are parties to each transfer; and

7 determining a country of origin for one or more selected ones of the animals using each a  
8 ~~most-recent~~ unique passport identifier associated therewith to determine all locations in which the  
9 selected ones have been located throughout their lifetime.

1 Claim 14 (original): The method according to Claim 13, further comprising the step of preparing  
2 a country of origin claim using the determined country of origin.

1 Claim 15 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein animal passports are created for  
2 each transfer during a lifetime of the animals and further comprising the steps of:

3 recording each of the animal passports in a repository, along with a specification of how

4 many animals are represented by each transfer, a location of the animals during a timeframe  
5 covered by the animal passport, and an identification of one or more transferors and one or more  
6 transferees who are parties to each transfer;

7 using a most-recent unique passport identifier associated therewith to determine all  
8 locations in which one or more selected ones of the animals have been located throughout their  
9 lifetime; and

10 verifying a country of origin claim for the selected ones by comparing the determined  
11 locations to one or more locations stated in the country of origin claim.

1 Claim 16 (original): A system for uniquely identifying animals transferred in groups, the system  
2 comprising:

3 means for associating a unique identifier with each transfer of a group of animals;

4 means for recording the unique identifiers in a repository, along with a specification of  
5 how many animals are in the group and an identification of one or more transferors and one or  
6 more transferees who are parties to the transfer; and

7 means for linking each subsequent transfer of any of the animals to prior transfers by  
8 associating a new unique identifier with each such subsequent transfer and specifying an  
9 association between the unique identifier of the prior transfer and the new unique identifier of the  
10 subsequent transfer.

1 Claim 17 (original): The system according to Claim 16, further comprising means for tracing  
2 transfers of a subset comprising one or more of the transferred animals by accessing the

3 association between the unique identifier of the prior transfer and the new unique identifier of the  
4 subsequent transfer for that subset.

1 Claim 18 (original): A system for identifying groups of animals from birth to death, comprising:  
2 means for associating a unique identifier with animals transferred from an original owner  
3 thereof;  
4 means for associating a different unique identifier with each subsequent transfer of the  
5 animals or any subset thereof; and  
6 means for linking, at each subsequent transfer, the different unique identifier with the  
7 unique identifier associated with a most-recent transfer of the animals in that subsequent transfer.

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 18, wherein additional animals are  
2 ~~may be~~ included in one or more of the subsequent transfers, and wherein the unique identifier of  
3 the most-recent transfers of those additional animals is also linked with the different unique  
4 identifier of the subsequent transfer.

1 Claim 20 (original): A method of tracking transfers with passports, the method comprising steps  
2 of:  
3 creating a passport to represent a transfer of one or more entities from a transferor to a  
4 transferee;  
5 assigning a unique passport identifier to each created passport, thereby providing a unique  
6 identification of the underlying transfer; and

7           repeating the creating and assigning steps for each subsequent transfer of one or more of  
8   the transferred entities, wherein the passport created for each subsequent transfer also records the  
9   unique passport identifier assigned to each most-recent transfer of those entities.